
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**February 26, 2008
Minutes**

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THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Abrishami, Lori	MTA
Cheng, Herman	MTA
Cooper, Keith	Jones & Stokes
Litschi, Michael	OCTA
Walecka, Carla	TCA
Williams, Leann	Caltrans Dist. 7

SCAG Staff

Acebo, Mervin
Asuncion, John
Del Rosario, Sheryll
Nadler, Jonathan
Patsaouras, Sylvia
Sherwood, Arnie

Via Teleconference:

Ambrosi, Rafael	Caltrans District 11
Brady, Mike	Caltrans Headquarters
Cacatian, Ben	Ventura County Air Pollution
Chandon, Nina	Caltrans District 8
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans District 7
Fagan, Paul	Caltrans District 8
Gallo, Ilene	Caltrans
Higgins, Kathryn	SCAQMD
Jeffery, Edison	Caltrans District 8
Johnson, Sandy	Caltrans District 11
Lay, Keith	LSA & Associates

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Lopez, Rosa	IVAG
Noch, Michelle	FHWA
O'Connor, Karina	EPA Region 9
Sells, Evyonne	SCAQMD
Tavitas, Ronnie	Caltrans Headquarters

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Lori Abrishami, MTA, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

3.1 TCWG January 22, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 RTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, stated that the 2006 RTIP Amendment #12 received federal approval on February 12, 2008. Staff is currently working on processing an administrative and formal amendment and hope to deliver this to Caltrans sometime later in the week. Staff is also continuing to work on the 2008 RTIP development and plans on completing the project analysis of all the projects in the TIP by February 29th.

4.2 AQMP/SIP

Karina O'Connor, EPA, discussed the status of EPA's review of the transportation emission budgets for the South Coast PM 2.5 and 8-hr Ozone plans and those in the Early Progress Plans for other areas in the SCAG

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region. EPA has discussed their concerns with certain technical aspects of the South Coast budgets, and is working with ARB, SCAQMD, and SCAG to resolve the issue.

4.3 RTP Update

Naresh Amatya, SCAG, stated that the public comment period closed on February 19th. Staff is currently preparing responses to the comments.

Several comments received concerned the 2008 RTP baseline and policy growth forecasts. Mr. Amatya briefly summarized their differences. The Baseline Growth Forecast for the 2008 RTP represents a growth forecast based on current and expected demographic and economic trends, as well as previously adopted local land use policies within the SCAG region. The Draft Policy Growth Forecast incorporates existing and emerging development patterns that maximize the benefits of existing and planned transportation investments. Various stakeholders have expressed that they would like to see the Baseline Forecast adopted. Staff is going to take this issue in the March to the CEHD policy committee to have a discussion on what policy growth forecast the region should utilize as the RTP moves forward.

Mr. Amatya also discussed a couple of major projects that staff is working on. One project is the Orangeline, which is a segment of a high speed rail system that connects southern Orange County with Los Angeles County. OCTA Board has taken an action to prevent the consideration of using any Metrolink right-of-way. Staff has asked the Orangeline JPA to reassess their financial plan to account for the planning needs for the right-of-way.

There has also been discussion on the CETAP corridors specifically related to Corridor B, which is alignment that connects Orange County with Riverside County along an unspecified alignment. Currently the consensus between the agencies is to move forward with this project in the RTP as a PE and Environmental project and not as a capital project. Staff will be considering removing the capital part of the project from the final RTP and will be conducting the necessary analytical work to validate this.

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A TCC workshop has been scheduled for March 19th, 9:00 a.m., at SCAG to discuss the key comments that have been received and the results of some of the analytical work that has been done prior to taking the RTP to the Regional Council for adoption on April 3rd. The final draft of the RTP will be mailed out to the Regional Council a week prior to the April 3rd meeting.

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, informed the TCWG that the formal conformity analysis for the RTP will be based on the plan as proposed for adoption. In terms of the emissions budgets, there are issues that staff is working through involving EPA and ARB.

4.4 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Form

1) RIV070305 - I-215 interstate widening

Tentatively not a POAQC - Pending determination from the FHWA and ARB.

2) LA0B311 – Foothill Transit Park-and-Rise structure on Vincent Ave. In West Covina

Not a POAQC.

4.5 Projects Requiring Follow-Up

RIV031218 - Mid County Parkway in Riverside

Sheryll Del Rosario, SCAG, stated that the project was originally submitted in August 2007. A revised version of the qualitative analyses was submitted in December 2007. Staff received another revised version February 24 that includes the PM 2.5 re-entrained dust discussion. The revised version is posted on SCAG's website.

Keith Lay, LSA & Associates, stated that primary purpose of the discussion was to ensure that all comments prior were incorporated into the final document. FHWA did not have additional comments. EPA provided comments regarding including re-entrained road dust as part of the PM2.5 analysis. The document was determined acceptable for NEPA circulation,

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pending final submittal of the revised analysis that incorporated EPA's comments.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

No new items to report.

6.0 INFORMATION SHARING

Arnie Sherwood, SCAG, announced that he would be teaching a course on conformity and transportation air quality in Sacramento on March 19th for Caltrans staff.

Jonathan Nadler announced that Michael Litschi, OCTA, would be the new Chairman of the TCWG.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

Lori Abrishami adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on March 25, 2008 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.